

called “fast track” to negotiate this, which means whatever they negotiate, we don’t get to see, and then they bring it up here under a fast track procedure. That process ties our hands. They bring it up in one lump-sum vote, with no amendments allowed. And they usually do it in a lame-duck session of Congress after election and just try to ram it through, usually very late in the evening, often in the early morning hours.

Since fast track was first used, the United States has accumulated red ink—trade deficits, more imports coming in here than exports going out—for nearly three decades. We have accumulated over \$9 trillion in trade deficits. If you want to know why we have a budget deficit, it is because we have a trade deficit. We have outsourced too many jobs to low-wage havens. Go out and try to buy anything made in America; right? The American people know this inherently. More than 7 million good-paying American manufacturing jobs have been lost since fast track was first passed.

Every poll of U.S. opinion tells this Congress: What do the American people care about? Jobs and the economy. Jobs and the economy. They care about economic recovery. So why is this administration using the same old model that goes back to 1975? Now they are looking at the Pacific, the Pacific region, as if we haven’t had relations with some of those countries before. But every other agreement has resulted in red ink. The American people want job creation, not job outsourcing.

Actually, if this President were to refurbish this failed trade model and really fix it, it would be the first time in modern history that our trade policy would yield job creation in this country, net job creation in this country and real income growth for the American people.

Now, let’s look at a couple dimensions of this.

The trade deficit in 2012, the last year for which we have confirmed numbers, was half a trillion dollars, \$534 billion. That alone resulted in over 2 million lost jobs in this country. That number has just been getting worse with each passing decade, more and more jobs lost.

Let’s look at some of the countries. Let’s take China. The trade deficit in 2000 with China was about \$83 billion. It has increased four fold. It has quadrupled. In 2012, for which we have confirmed numbers, we had over \$315 billion in trade deficit with China. Every billion equals 4,000 lost jobs in this country. So we are net negative with China—a job loss of over 1,200,000 more U.S. jobs.

With Japan, we have been solidly negative for decades. In 2012, our trade deficit with Japan was \$76 billion.

With Mexico, they said after NAFTA, oh, it is going to be great for America; there are going to be millions of jobs in the United States. Wrong. Our jobs were outsourced. In fact, in the year

2000, we had a \$24 billion deficit with Mexico. By 2012, that had gone up three times more to \$61 billion in the red—in the red—our jobs going there, their exports coming here, not the reverse. That’s 244,000 more lost jobs. The numbers don’t lie.

In Korea, we had a discussion with some of the President’s advisers. They said, well, you know, that was supposed to be the new trade model, the Korean trade deal that this President proposed was going to change everything. Well, guess what? We are in the red with Korea, too. In 2000, we already had a \$12 billion trade deficit. Yes, more red ink. After the new Korean free trade deal, in 2012, it has nearly doubled. It is \$16.6 billion. And in 2013, just through November, it is nearly \$20 billion. That is a doubling of the trade deficit with Korea and 80,000 more lost U.S. jobs.

So if this fast track free trade is such a great trade model, how is it working for the American people? It isn’t. None of these trade deals are working. It might be working for certain transnational corporations who can pay their investors more because of the profits they are making off of cheap labor in low wage haven and the lack of environmental regulations in these other countries, but it is not working for the benefit of the American economy, the American people. It is time to change the trade model.

Let me just put two other numbers on the record here. We have over 1.5 million Americans over 45 years of age who still are unemployed. These are people who have worked their whole lives. We can’t even get them unemployment benefits and their jobs have been shipped out someplace else.

Mr. Speaker, later in the week I will talk about the cost of environment degradation in this country because of imports that are not properly regulated by the Department of Agriculture coming over our border and doing harm from coast to coast. It’s long, long overdue for a new trade model that benefits our nation and creates jobs here at home.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Andrew Chaney, First and Calvary Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Missouri, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You equipped the Founders with great resilience as they sought Your wisdom in establishing our Nation. With that same power that inspired our patriots, bless these Members of Congress today. Lift them up, O God.

When they feel discouraged, when negative thoughts seem to dominate, when the winds are against them, strengthen their minds and spirits with an inner faith that only You can provide.

As we are now united in prayer, unite their efforts. Help them leave bitterness by the wayside. May their decisions consider the hopeful faces of parents, children, elderly, soldiers, veterans; that each person in every district will be blessed by the strong leadership of this Congress.

As many voices compete for their attention, create a sanctuary for them to pause, reflect, and hear Your voice. Equip them with a courage that constantly reminds them that “with God, all things are possible.”

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. ANDREW CHANEY

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, today I have the honor of introducing my friend, Reverend Dr. Andrew Chaney.

Reverend Chaney is a third-generation minister. He serves as the senior minister at the historic First and Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Missouri, a church that is a special place to me and my family. Reverend Chaney serves as an important spiritual voice for me and the Springfield community.

Congress has a longstanding tradition of beginning each session day with a prayer. I am privileged and honored to have the opportunity today to welcome Reverend Dr. Andrew Chaney to the people's House as he opened today's session with a prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FAIR AND REASONABLE FLOOD INSURANCE RATES

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Florida has been an overly responsible—and even generous—partner in the National Flood Insurance Program.

In the last 20 years, Floridians have paid four times in premiums than we have seen returned in claims. Yet FEMA is raising thousands upon thousands of policy premiums to absurd levels, easily doubling, tripling, or quadrupling them, and in some cases far higher.

These radical changes are counter-intuitive and are forcing hard-working, diligent, and responsible families from their homes. It is time to take a step back and rein in this agency and its harmful belief that this is a potential path forward.

Families in our communities need and deserve relief from these ridiculously high premiums. I will continue to work with my colleagues on trying to find a reasonable solution to this crisis, one that will address the immediate needs of local homeowners.

WE CANNOT AFFORD BAD TRADE DEALS

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, trade of course can be good for Americans and our economy, but we cannot afford bad trade deals. Bad trade deals exacerbate inequality. It makes the ladder of opportunity harder to climb for working people.

Twenty years ago, Washington passed NAFTA, and the results have been devastating to our economy for

working people. Over 850,000 U.S. jobs left for Mexico, and our trade deficit skyrocketed from \$100 billion to \$700 billion. Before fast track authority, the U.S. had a trade surplus.

Fast track and the Trans-Pacific Partnership are not right for the American people. We must have more transparency. We must have more disclosure. We must have good trade deals that reflect the fact that the United States workers produce great services and products.

The trade deals need to reflect that, not have a race to the bottom for which we go to the cheapest markets around the world to compete with good American workers who make fair pay. It is not the right thing. I am for trade, but not bad trade agreements that are conducted in secret.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S AMERICA

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, welcome to President Obama's America: where labor force participation rates are the lowest since 1978; where good-paying jobs are scarce; where many health insurance premiums are skyrocketing or being canceled; where jobs bills sent to the Senate collect dust on HARRY REID's desk; where the State Department concluded that the job-creating Keystone XL pipeline poses little environmental risk, yet the President has not approved it; where yesterday the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office released a report stating that ObamaCare will have substantially larger negative effects on the economy than anticipated.

The CBO projects the number of full-time workers to fall by 2.3 million, while increasing financial burdens on our children and grandchildren.

I urge the President: use that pen to approve House-passed jobs bills; use that phone to work with Congress, and let's work together to relieve the burden that so many of your policies have placed on the backs of the American people.

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE GREAT LAKES

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, this afternoon I look forward to addressing the Great Lakes Environmental Summit.

The history of Buffalo is deeply rooted in the Great Lakes, as easy access to Lake Erie fueled a thriving manufacturing industry. Our future is also bright thanks to growing public and private investment in the waterfront.

Moreover, the Great Lakes support 1.5 million jobs and \$62 billion in wages per year. A report by The Brookings

Institution found that every \$1 invested in restoration generates \$2 in economic benefit and up to \$4 in economic activity through jobs, development, and increased property values.

But in order to realize these benefits, we must protect from outside threats, like nutrient runoff, invasive species, and harmful algae blooms.

I commend the work of advocates like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Environmental Protection Agency, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeepers, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, and my colleagues on the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force for taking action on protecting and preserving this vital natural resource.

PRESIDENT'S BROKEN PROMISE

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker and my colleagues, too many middle class Americans are out of work or worried about losing their job, and the House has passed dozens of bills to help them. More are in the works as we speak, including important legislation that fosters more trade and opportunities for growth. In Washington, it is often referred to as TPA, trade promotion authority.

But around the country from our farms to our factories, this means jobs. It means making it easier for our workers—including the 1.4 million in Ohio whose jobs depend on trade—to be able to compete with China and the world's growing economies.

This initiative has support from Members of both parties, including President Obama himself. Unfortunately, like many of our jobs bills, his party's leaders in the Senate are standing in the way. The President needs to use his bully pulpit as only an American President can and change their minds. He can do that today when he addresses Senate Democrats.

I certainly hope and expect he will help us move this bill forward on behalf of American workers. Otherwise, all the talk about a "year of action" would appear to be just another broken promise.

APPLAUDING CVS CAREMARK

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud CVS Caremark's decision to stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products in its more than 7,600 stores across the United States. CVS, which is headquartered in my district in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, is leading the way in promoting public health and wellness, and I hope other pharmacies will follow their example.

I would particularly like to thank Larry Merlo, the president and CEO of CVS Caremark; Helena Foulkes, the